



Learning Community Meeting

January 18, 2023

NBEC and NCQA: Birth Equity Accountability
Through Measurement Project

Agenda

Welcome

NBEC and NCQA's Birth Equity Accountability Through Measurement (BEAM) Project

- Dr. Susan Perez, NBEC
- Afua Nyame-Mireku, NBEC
- Whitney Graves, NCQA

Updates

Adjourn

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Birth Equity Accountability Through Measurement (BEAM)

January 18, 2023

Susan L. Perez, PhD, MPH
Whitney C. Graves, PhD, MPH

Agenda

- ❖ **Partnership Background**
- ❖ **Project Overview**
- ❖ **Environmental Scan**
- ❖ **Questions and Closing**

Acknowledgements



Partnership

National Birth Equity Collective (NBEC) & National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)



Mission: NBEC creates transnational solutions that optimize Black maternal, infant, sexual, and reproductive wellbeing. We shift systems and culture through training, research, technical assistance, policy, advocacy, and community-centered collaboration.

Vision: All Black mamas, their babies, and their villages should THRIVE.



Mission: Improve the quality of health care.

Vision: Better health care. Better choices. Better health.



Project Team

Co-Principal Investigators

Joia Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG, Sarah Shih, MPH and Sepheen Byron, DrPH, MHS

Project Directors

Ashli Barnes, MPH and Susan Perez, PhD

Project Managers

Kiara Cruz, MPH and Jules Reich

Research Analysts

Tamia Ross, MPH, Whitney Graves, PhD, MPH and Polina Lissin, MPH

Subject Matter Experts

Zainab Jah, MPH and Lindsey Roth, MPP



Project Overview

BEAM Project Goal

To create, test and implement a quality measurement approach that can align levels of the health care system towards birth equity.

Current Landscape of Birth Equity Measurement

Where We Are

- Persistent, large and increasing mortality gaps between non-Hispanic Black and all other birthing people
- Existing and proposed quality measures focused on birthing care and outcomes do not have an equity lens

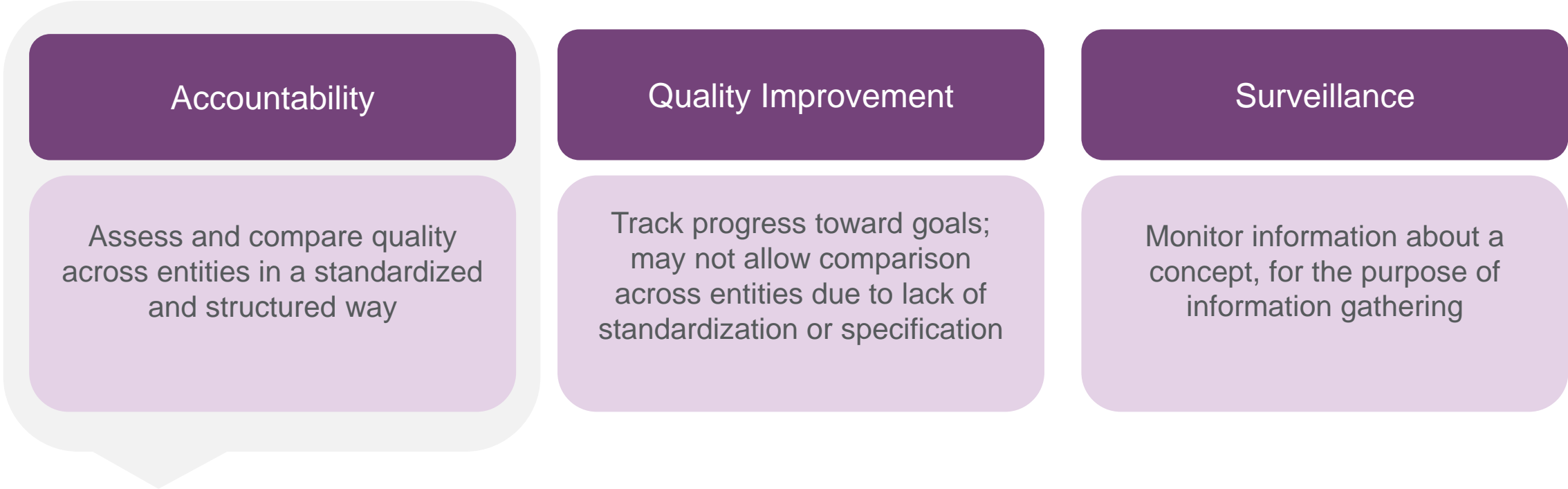


Where We Want To Be

A quality measurement strategy that drives equitable care for birthing people

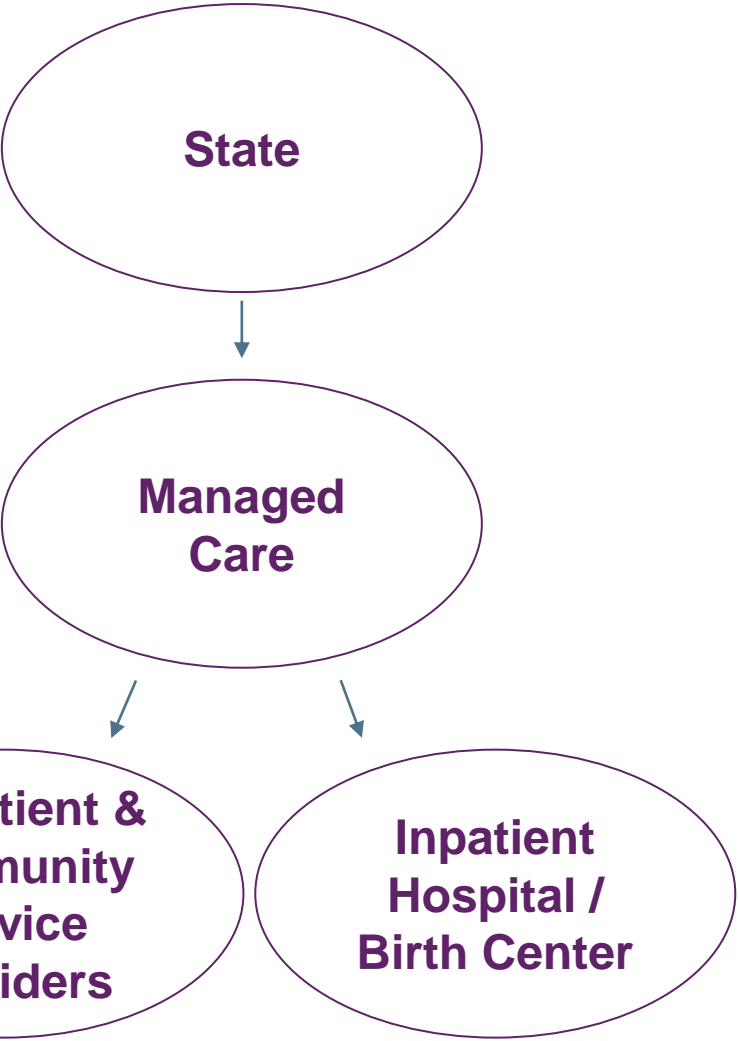
- Addresses racist policies/practices
- Centers patient voices in prioritization of measures
- Promotes joint accountability of all entities involved in caring for birthing people across settings

How Are Quality Measures Used?



Our measurement framework will focus on public reporting and accountability to drive equity

Joint Accountability Across Different Levels of Care



Responsibilities

Set priorities & regulations
 Direct resources
 Financing

Payment & coverage
 Manage delivery of evidence-based care across systems

Provide services
 Provide respectful care
 Give health guidance
 Connect to services

Tools to Address Quality

Medicaid program design
 Value-based payment
 Connecting clinical data systems

Case management
 Network adequacy
 Contracts with social services

Clinician education & training
 Process improvement
 Case management
 Contracts with social services

Phase I – Overview

Goal

- 1) Establish a birth equity quality measurement framework that promotes system alignment *and*
- 2) Generate measure concepts to develop and test in Phase 2

Process

- 1) Gather existing knowledge *and*
- 2) Gain consensus on the birth equity measurement framework and prioritize measure concepts for development and testing

Results

Birth equity measurement framework, principles to guide equity measure development and measure concepts for piloting

Impact

Quality measurement approach centering historically marginalized groups and promoting accountability for alignment within healthcare system

Phase I – In Detail

Step 1: Environmental Scan

Gather existing knowledge: literature review, existing measures search, and scholar interviews on works in progress



Analyze findings to guide measure development strategy and principles

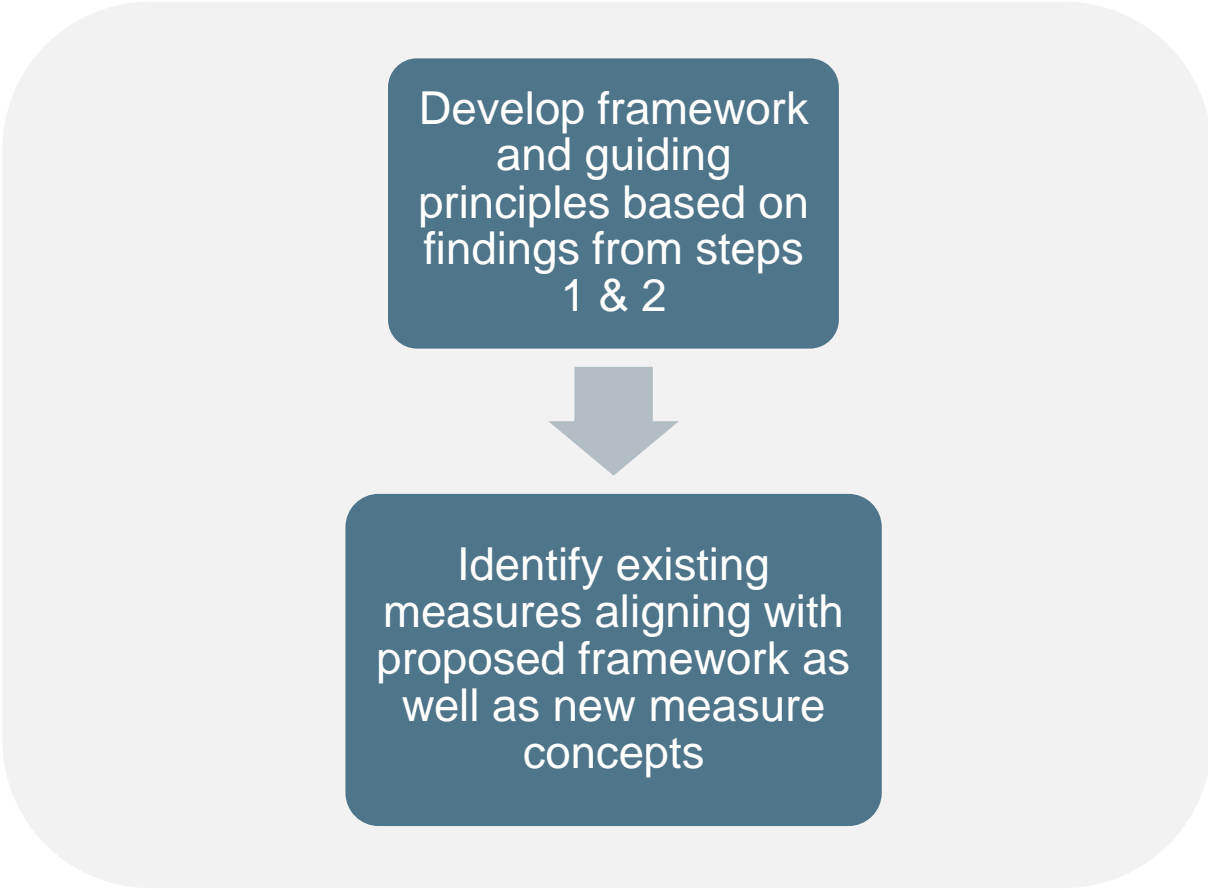
Phase I – In Detail

Step 2: Stakeholder Interviews



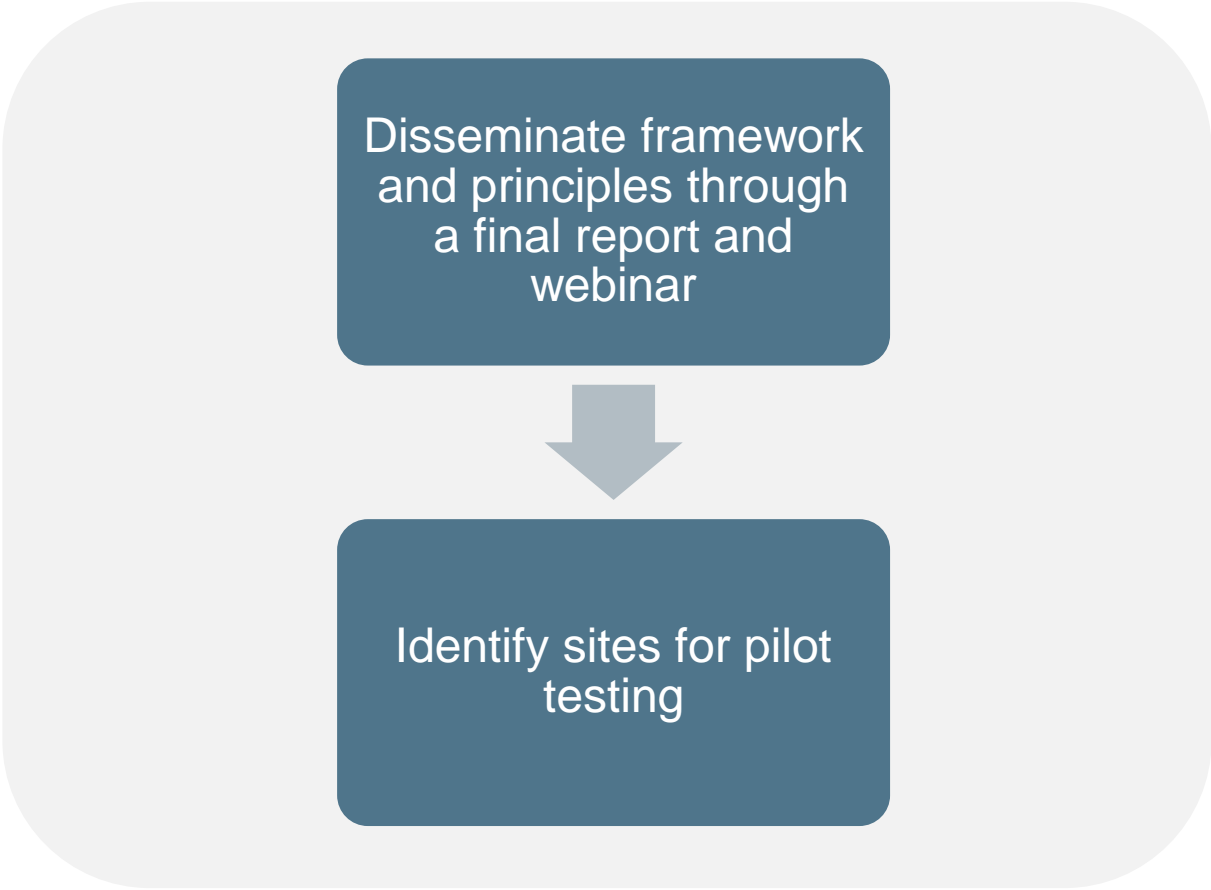
Phase I – In Detail

Step 3: Framework Development



Phase I – In Detail

Step 4: Disseminate and Prepare for Phase 2



Phases II and III – Preview



Questions?



Environmental Scan & Key Stakeholder Interviews

Purpose

Environmental Scan and Key Stakeholder Interviews

Our Endpoint:

A proposed framework and roadmap for aligned measures/concepts across the delivery system to promote equitable birth outcomes

Throughout the process, we aim to understand:



which existing birth equity strategies to incorporate in measurement framework



which populations or aspects of care measurement framework should aim to capture

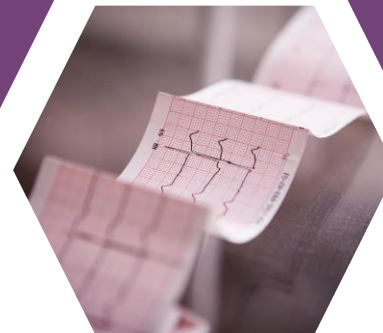


how each level of health system can be leveraged to promote accountability



gaps in existing measures

what matters most to patients and families



Questions, Methods, and Purpose

Environmental Scan and Key Stakeholder Interviews

| Key Questions | Methods for Gathering Information | How Findings will Facilitate Development of the Birth Equity Measurement Framework |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. To what extent do disparities in birth outcomes exist, and for whom? | Systematized review of peer-reviewed literature | Understand which populations or aspects of care the measurement framework should address |
| 2. What are ways to overcome disparities and improve equity in birth outcomes? | Systematized review of peer-reviewed literature; targeted search of gray literature , reports from known organizations, legislative/policy information; and interviews with scholars on works in progress | Understand which birth equity strategies could be addressed in the measurement framework |
| 3. What quality measures currently exist that address care for birthing people from pregnancy through postpartum? How do they align to birth equity strategies? | Search of existing quality measures from targeted websites; and interviews with scholars on works in progress | Understand gaps in existing measures and opportunities for new/better measures |

Questions, Methods, and Purpose

Environmental Scan and Key Stakeholder Interviews

| Key Questions | Methods for Gathering Information | How Findings will Facilitate Development of the Birth Equity Measurement Framework |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. What birthing processes, outcomes or experiences matter most to patients and families from historically marginalized communities? | Key stakeholder interviews with patients and families | Understand what matters most to patients and families that the measurement framework should address |
| 5. What is the role of various actors in the health care system ? How do they believe they can address equity based on their roles ? | Key stakeholder interviews with health care service providers, community-based organizations and policy experts | Understand how each level of the health system can best address birth equity and align measures to those levels accordingly |

Progress to Date

Environmental Scan and Key Stakeholder Interviews

| Project Deliverables | Progress | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Systematized review of peer-reviewed literature | IN PROGRESS | |
| Gray literature search | IN PROGRESS | |
| Measurement scan | COMPLETED | |
| Interviews with scholars in birth equity (n=10) | IN PROGRESS | <i>Interviews Ongoing</i> |
| Interviews with patients, families and health system stakeholders (n=40) | <i>Will Be Conducted in Spring 2023</i> | |

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Overview

- BEAM framework to focus on public reporting and accountability measures to drive equity
- Included measures that addressed **pregnancy health, the birthing experience, or the postpartum infant/parent dyad of care**
- Excluded measures that focused generally on adult populations or recommended measures that have not yet been developed

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Accountability and Surveillance Measures During Prenatal Stage

| MEASURE TYPE | PRENATAL |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Structure <i>Provision of high-quality care</i> | N/A |
| Access <i>Provision of timely and appropriate care</i> | Early prenatal visit** Multidisciplinary outpatient care for high-risk births |
| Process <i>Services to promote patient health/ well-being</i> | Prenatal immunizations Depression screening & follow-up Ultrasound for those with abdominal pain |
| Clinical Outcome <i>Patient health status</i> | Maternal mortality rate Severe maternal morbidity rate |
| Patient-Reported Outcomes / Experiences <i>Aggregate patient-reported data</i> | % who reported smoking during pregnancy % who reported having a preventive dental visit % who reported experiencing intimate partner violence % who reported their pregnancy was intended, not intended or unsure |

■ Accountability measure

■ Surveillance measure

**Stratified by race and ethnicity

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Accountability and Surveillance Measures During Prenatal Stage

| MEASURE TYPE | LABOR/ DELIVERY |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Structure <i>Provision of high-quality care</i> | Implementation of patient safety bundles |
| Access <i>Provision of timely and appropriate care</i> | High-risk births at facilities with appropriate services |
| Process <i>Services to promote patient health/ well-being</i> | Low-risk cesarean deliveries Early elective deliveries Exclusive breast milk feeding VBAC delivery rate, uncomplicated Incidence of episiotomy |
| Clinical Outcome <i>Patient health status</i> | Low birthweight births Unexpected newborn complications Obstetric trauma rate Maternal mortality rate Severe maternal morbidity rate |
| Patient-Reported Outcomes / Experiences <i>Aggregate patient-reported data</i> | N/A |

■ Accountability measure

■ Surveillance measure

**Stratified by race and ethnicity

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Accountability and Surveillance Measures During Prenatal Stage

| MEASURE TYPE | POSTPARTUM |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Structure <i>Provision of high-quality care</i> | N/A |
| Access <i>Provision of timely and appropriate care</i> | Postpartum visit** Access to contraceptive care |
| Process <i>Services to promote patient health/ well-being</i> | Postpartum screenings & education Depression screening & follow-up |
| Clinical Outcome <i>Patient health status</i> | Late maternal mortality rate Maternal mortality rate Severe maternal morbidity rate |
| Patient-Reported Outcomes / Experiences <i>Aggregate patient-reported data</i> | % who reported a top-box score on person-centered contraceptive counseling % who reported they ever breastfed; or any breastfeeding at 8 weeks postpartum |

■ Accountability measure

■ Surveillance measure

**Stratified by race and ethnicity

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Summary

- **Hospital-level measures** focus only on avoiding non-recommended delivery procedures & harmful outcomes for newborns
- **State Medicaid & health-plan measures** focus on access to one prenatal and one postpartum visit, as well as depression screening & immunizations
- No **mortality** or **morbidity** outcome measures used for accountability, only surveillance

Measurement Scan Preliminary Findings

Summary cont.

- No accountability measures assessing **patient-reported outcomes or experiences** despite existence of validated tools

- No **standard approach to measuring disparities** in care or outcomes

Summary of Methods & Questions

| Key Question | Method for Gathering Information |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Who experiences disparities in birth outcomes? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematized peer-reviewed lit review • Scholar interviews on works in progress |
| Ways to overcome disparities? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematized peer-reviewed lit review • Gray literature review • Scholar interviews on works in progress |
| Existing quality measures? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted search for measures • Scholar interviews on works in progress |
| What matters most to patients and families from historically marginalized populations? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with patients and families |
| Role of health care system stakeholders? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with stakeholders across the health system |



Questions and Closing

THANK YOU

Any follow-up questions or comments please direct to:

Susan Perez, PhD, MPH
sperez@birthequity.org

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Last week the Hub released “*Using Managed Care Organization Contracts as a Lever to Address Health Equity in Maternity Care.*”

The issue brief describes the innovative ways states are using the Medicaid Managed Care contracting process to address health equity, including to improve equity and close gaps in outcomes for maternity care.

View the resource:

<https://maternalhealthhub.org/resource/1870/>

Updates

January 31: Purchaser Business Group on Health webinar discussing their new resource ***The Hospital Guide to Integrating the Freestanding Birth Center Model***

Register to hear about this new resource that offers specific instructions and specialized tools to help hospital leaders integrate birth center care into their service lines. Speakers will share:

- How to optimize use of the guide and its many resources
- Information about PBGH's 2023-2024 learning collaborative to implement the principles of the guide with hospitals and birth centers

Register here:

<https://pbgh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkfumrqTlqGNVZHYcYUYHKWhsCPQW0VJjv>